IN THE CLAIMS

The claims of the present application are set for below. Amendment of the claims as indicated by the markings is hereby requested.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data

is in a printer data format; and

differently processing said form data in the data stream based on pixels and variable data

while the data is in the printer specific data format,

wherein said form data re-occurs a plurality of times in interrelated data sets.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: allocating references to the form data to the variable data.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing a form dataset of identical form data only once within a predetermined data group, and

storing all allocated variable data of all datasets of the data group,

wherein said form data is used for a plurality of different documents.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said printer data format is printer-specific data.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of: seeking form indicators for recognizing form data in the data stream.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

investigating data of the data stream first in groups for form data, and

allocating between the variable data and the form data only given repeated occurrence of form data.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of: using overlay information form indicators.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

storing a form dataset after a first occurrence within the predetermined data group of the print data stream; and

only marking data as a form dataset, converting the data into a form bitmap and allocating the data to an appertaining variable dataset after a repeated occurrence.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: ~~with~~ within a work sequence, implementing at least one of printing and archiving.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format; and

differently processing the two data types,

wherein the form data are not stored in the archive storage.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;

differently processing the two data types; and

reconstructing an original pixel image from the form data and the variable data.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;

differently processing the two data types; and

using references to superimpose the form data and the variable data.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;

differently processing the two data types; and

generating an index dataset.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the index dataset contains a reference to the variable data.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a printer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic and text information, wherein the print data stream is converted from the printer-specific data format into a data format based on pixels, comprising:

an archiving interface that differently processes form data in the data format based on pixels and variable data while said data is in the printer-specific data format.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

a printer controller that transfers variable data, form data and index data to a further-processing computer via an interface.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said print controller includes a further-processing computer integrated in the printer controller.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said archiving interface is operable to make a distinction between form data and variable data.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20.(Previously Presented) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;

differently processing the two data types; and

converting a data stream is converted from the printer-specific data format into a data format based on pixels.

21.(Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said overlay information is selected from the information consisting of control information, macro information, graphic information, predetermined text modules and predetermined text attributes.